

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1203 - SB 1309

March 16, 2013

SUMMARY OF BILL: Creates the “Sheriff’s Constitutional Duties Act of 2013”. Defines the duties of the sheriff throughout the county. Provides that sheriff’s duties include, but are not limited to, calls for service, vice violations, security for public schools, road patrols, and the free flow of vehicular traffic along all roads, highways, and interstates within the county. Removes an antiquated requirement that sheriffs provide fire and water to the courthouse when in session.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$59,450,000*

Assumptions:

- This bill will only impact local governments.
- According to the Department of Safety, this bill will not impact the Department.
- According to the Tennessee Sheriff’s Association (TSA), several of the duties listed in the bill are currently performed by sheriffs and will not impact current functions of sheriff offices; however, sheriffs are not currently mandated to provide security for public schools nor be responsible for traffic on interstates and state highways.
- According to TSA, the Tennessee Highway Patrol is responsible for traffic on interstates and state highways; therefore, no additional resources will be required by sheriff offices for ensuring the free flow of traffic on interstates and state highways.
- Of the 1,784 public schools in the state, approximately 700 are currently staffed by a school resource officer (SRO).
- According to TSA, approximately 85 percent, or 595, of the 700 SROs, are provided by sheriff offices. If each sheriff is required to staff one SRO at each public school, 1,189 (1,784 – 595) additional SROs will be required.
- Expenses for a full-time SRO range from \$50,000 to \$75,000, which includes salary, benefits, training, and necessary equipment.
- The minimum recurring expenditure per SRO is reasonably estimated to exceed \$50,000, including costs for salary, benefits, and training.

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- The recurring mandatory increase in local government expenditures for providing an SRO to every public school is reasonably estimated to exceed \$59,450,000 annually (\$50,000 per SRO x 1,189).

*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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